ister of India and Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai of Nepal signed a Joint Communique at the end of the Nepalese Prime Minister's visit to India. The Joint Communique provided for restoration of *status quo ante* as on April 1, 1987 in the relations between the two countres. This was to be pending finalisation of a comprehensive arrangement covering all aspects of bilateral relations. All the necessary steps to be taken by both Governments to implement this were specified in the two annexure to the Communique. Both sides committed themselves to ushering in a new era of bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of industrial and human resources development, for harnessing of the waters of common rivers for the benefit of the two peoples and for the protection and management of the environment. The security concerns of both sides were also duly addressed in the Joint Communique. Both sides reaffirmed their desire not only to normalise Indo-Nepal relations, but to impart to them new dimensions and dynamism.

Bridges in Rajasthan

2572. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for according sanction for the construction of a bridge over the river UJHAR on SH No. 19 District Jhalawar costing Rs. 75,000 lakhs; and

(b) if so, when the proposal was received and by when it is likely to be approved/sanctioned and if there is delay, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNI-KRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal for construction of a high level bridge on Ujhar river on State Highway No. 19 in Rajasthan received in April, 89, has not yet been taken up for approval for want of the actual augmentation of the Central Road Fund against which the proposal was sent.

National Highways

2573. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV:
SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:
SHRI H. HANUMAN-THAPPA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government of India to hand over the maintenance of National Highways to private firms;

(b) if so, what are those from Maharashtra State; and

(c) what are the proposals for National Highways from Marathwada region of Maharashtra State?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNI-KRISHNAN): (a) There is no proposal to hand over the maintenance of National Highways to private firms.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Creation of New National Highways in the country

2574. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV:
SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:
SHRI H. HANUMAN-THAPPA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the Policy of the Government of India in the creation of new National Highways in different parts of the country;